

09/653,664
9/11/06

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims Renumberings

1.-11. (CANCELED)

1 ~~12~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of conducting an on-line bidding session, comprising:

storing registered bidding groups in a computer accessible database coupled to a processor in an auction computer,
5 each of the registered bidding groups including a list of associated bidders;

receiving bids from bidders on a plurality of remote computers;

determining a respective bidding group's total bid by
10 accumulating the bids received from bidders included in the respective bidding group's list of associated bidders; and

storing the determined total bid in the database.

2 ~~13~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~12~~,
further comprising creating registration records in the database,
each registration record corresponding to a bidder account and
including a bidder name, a bidder identification and a financial
5 account number.

3 ~~14~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~13~~¹, wherein receiving bids from bidders includes receiving the respective bidder name and respective bidder identification from the bidders and the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises:

5 verifying, using the processor, whether the respective bidder name and respective identification match a registration record stored in the database; and

 recording a bid record in the database if the respective bidder name and the respective identification ~~number~~ have a
10 verified match.

~~15~~³. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~14~~³, further comprising:

 determining if the ~~determined total~~ respective bidding group's total bid exceeds a threshold, and if so declaring the
5 bidding group associated with the respective total bid a winning group;

 retrieving the recorded bid records associated with the respective total bid;

 determining at least one bidder account that corresponds
10 to the retrieved bid records; and

 charging the ~~determined bidder account~~ at least one bidder account at least one of the bid amounts included in the bid records.

5 ~~5~~ 16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~12~~¹, wherein
further comprising, after determining the total bid associated with
the respective bidding group, sending the determined total bid over
a computer network to at least one remote computer of at least one
5 bidder associated with the respective bidding group.

~~5~~ ~~17~~ 6 17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of conducting an
auction comprising

registering a plurality of bidding groups;

5 receiving bids from bidders, each bid including a
respective bid designation corresponding to one of the plurality of
bidding groups;

associating each bid with ~~at least the~~ one of the
plurality of bidding groups corresponding to the respective bid
designation; and

10 declaring a winning bidding group for the auction from
the plurality of bidding groups based upon the bids associated with
each bidding group; and

displaying the winning bidding group for bidders to view.

7 ~~18~~ 6 18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~17~~⁶, wherein
each bidding group has a corresponding total bid amount and each

bid further includes a respective bid amount that is contributed to the total bid amount for ~~a~~ the corresponding bidding group.

~~8~~ ⁷~~19~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~18~~⁷, wherein the winning bidding group has the largest total bid amount at the end of ~~the~~ a bidding session of the auction.

~~9~~ ⁷~~20~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~18~~⁷, further comprising displaying ~~of~~ the total bid amount for one or more of the plurality of bidding groups.

~~10~~ ⁶~~21~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~17~~⁶, wherein ~~the~~ registering ~~a~~ the plurality of bidding groups uses at least one central computer coupled to a network.

~~11~~ ¹⁰~~22~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~21~~¹⁰, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

~~12~~ ¹⁰~~23~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~21~~¹⁰, wherein the network comprises one or more communication lines.

~~13~~ ¹⁰~~24~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~21~~¹⁰, further comprising using one or more remote computers coupled to the network to receive bids.

14 ~~25~~⁶. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~17~~⁶,
wherein the auction is on-line.

15 ~~26~~⁶. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~17~~⁶,
further comprising creating one or more bidder accounts.

16 ~~27~~⁶. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~17~~⁶,
wherein associating each bid with at least one of the plurality of
bidding groups comprises bid pooling.

17 ~~28~~⁶. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~17~~⁶,
wherein the auction continues until a pre-defined threshold occurs.

18 ~~29~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 28, wherein
the pre-defined threshold ~~is~~ comprises a period of time.

19 ~~30~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 28, wherein
the pre-defined threshold ~~is~~ comprises a minimum bidding activity.

~~20~~ ~~31~~ ~~32~~ ~~33~~ ~~34~~ ~~35~~ ~~36~~ ~~37~~ ~~38~~ ~~39~~ ~~40~~ ~~41~~ ~~42~~ ~~43~~ ~~44~~ ~~45~~ ~~46~~ ~~47~~ ~~48~~ ~~49~~ ~~50~~ ~~51~~ ~~52~~ ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~55~~ ~~56~~ ~~57~~ ~~58~~ ~~59~~ ~~60~~ ~~61~~ ~~62~~ ~~63~~ ~~64~~ ~~65~~ ~~66~~ ~~67~~ ~~68~~ ~~69~~ ~~70~~ ~~71~~ ~~72~~ ~~73~~ ~~74~~ ~~75~~ ~~76~~ ~~77~~ ~~78~~ ~~79~~ ~~80~~ ~~81~~ ~~82~~ ~~83~~ ~~84~~ ~~85~~ ~~86~~ ~~87~~ ~~88~~ ~~89~~ ~~90~~ ~~91~~ ~~92~~ ~~93~~ ~~94~~ ~~95~~ ~~96~~ ~~97~~ ~~98~~ ~~99~~ ~~100~~ ~~101~~ ~~102~~ ~~103~~ ~~104~~ ~~105~~ ~~106~~ ~~107~~ ~~108~~ ~~109~~ ~~110~~ ~~111~~ ~~112~~ ~~113~~ ~~114~~ ~~115~~ ~~116~~ ~~117~~ ~~118~~ ~~119~~ ~~120~~ ~~121~~ ~~122~~ ~~123~~ ~~124~~ ~~125~~ ~~126~~ ~~127~~ ~~128~~ ~~129~~ ~~130~~ ~~131~~ ~~132~~ ~~133~~ ~~134~~ ~~135~~ ~~136~~ ~~137~~ ~~138~~ ~~139~~ ~~140~~ ~~141~~ ~~142~~ ~~143~~ ~~144~~ ~~145~~ ~~146~~ ~~147~~ ~~148~~ ~~149~~ ~~150~~ ~~151~~ ~~152~~ ~~153~~ ~~154~~ ~~155~~ ~~156~~ ~~157~~ ~~158~~ ~~159~~ ~~160~~ ~~161~~ ~~162~~ 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contributing a respective bid amount in each bid to at least one total bid amount corresponding to at least one of the plurality of bidding groups; ~~and~~

10 declaring a winning bidding group from the plurality of bidding groups; and

notifying the bidders that the winning bidding group has been declared.

21 ~~32~~.²⁰ (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~, wherein the winning bidding group has the largest total bid amount at the end of the bidding session.

22 ~~33~~.²⁰ (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~31~~, further comprising using at least one central computer coupled to a network to register a the plurality of bidding groups.

23 ~~34~~.²² (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~33~~, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

24 ~~35~~.²² (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~33~~, wherein the network comprises one or more communication lines.

~~25~~²²/~~36~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~33~~²², further comprising using one or more remote computers coupled to the network to receive bids.

~~26~~²⁰/~~37~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~²⁰, wherein the auction is on-line.

~~27~~²⁰/~~38~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~²⁰, further comprising creating one or more bidder accounts.

~~28~~²⁰/~~39~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~²⁰, wherein contributing the respective bid amount in each bid to at least one total bid amount corresponding to at least one of the plurality of bidding groups comprises bid pooling.

~~29~~²⁰/~~40~~. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~31~~²⁰, further comprising displaying of the total bid amount for one or more of the plurality of bidding groups.

~~30~~²⁰/~~41~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~31~~²⁰, wherein the auction continues until a pre-defined threshold occurs.

~~31~~³⁰/~~42~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The methods of claim ~~41~~³⁰, wherein the pre-defined threshold is a period of time.

~~32~~³⁰~~43~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~41~~, wherein the pre-defined threshold is a minimum bidding activity.

Please add the following new claims:

~~33~~²⁰~~44~~. (NEW) The method of claim ~~31~~, wherein the winning bidding group is declared based upon a total bid associated with the winning bidding group exceeding a pre-defined threshold.

~~34~~³³~~45~~. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim ~~44~~, wherein the pre-defined threshold comprises a minimum price for a property being auctioned.